

## **ABSTRACT**

The methods described herein provide for ways of modulating, specifically inhibiting, integrin activation. The methods include identifying compounds such as naturally occurring and non-naturally occurring polypeptides and small molecules which bind to the  $\beta$ A domain of an integrin thus mimicking the contact between the CD loop with  $\beta$ A domain. Contacting the  $\beta$ A domain in this manner locks the integrin such that it is unable to be activated.